

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1520

SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASH DC IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER ON USAF NEEDS IN SPAIN

1. WHEN I SAW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GUTIERREZ-MELLADO ON AUGUST 25, I MENTIONED TO HIM OUR CONCERN THAT THE GOS HAD TAKEN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON OUR DESIRE TO STATION TWO ADDITIONAL TANKERS IN ZARAGOZA AND TWO MARINE REFUELER/TRANSPORTS IN ROTA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION NEXT MONTH. I SAID THAT THESE NATO EXERCISES, WHICH NORMALLY OCCUR IN THE SPRING AND FALL OF EACH YEAR, WERE IMPORTANT TO THE OVERALL WESTERN DEFENSE POSTURE AND THUS OF BENEFIT TO SPAIN. THIS LACK OF FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE GOS COMPLICATED THE TASK OF OUR AIR FORCE.

2. GUTIERREZ-MELLADO CONFIRMED THAT THE QUESTION OF THESE TANKERS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OF JULY 29. HE RECALLED THAT AT  
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THE TIME OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS THE SPANISH SIDE EXPRESSED CONCERN AND RESERVES ABOUT THE STATIONING OF TANKERS IN SPAIN AND THAT AGREEMENT HAD FINALLY BEEN REACHED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MORE THAN FIVE TANKERS STATIONED AT ANY ONE TIME ON SPANISH TERRITORY. THIS WAS AN INSTANCE WHERE WE WERE REQUESTING SOMETHING ADDITIONAL TO THAT PROVIDED BY THE TREATY AND THE

SPANISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD JUSTIFY APPROVAL OF SUCH A REQUEST.

3. I THEN REFERRED TO THE DISAPPROVAL BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT OF OUR REQUEST LAST MARCH FOR THE EXERCISING OF A TACTICAL SQUADRON FROM OUTSIDE SPAIN TO THE STANDBY BASE IN MORON. I SAID THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD PERHAPS NOT GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER THE MATTER, THERE WAS PROVISION IN THE TREATY FOR OCCASIONAL EXERCISING OF MORON. YET HERE AGAIN WE HAD A TURNDOWN FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE LIMITATION THAT ONLY AIRCRAFT STATIONED INSIDE SPAIN COULD BE USED.

4. I COMMENTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE AN INCREASING LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE SPANISH ATTITUDE TOWARD MILITARY COOPERATION WITH US AND THIS WAS OF INCREASING CONCERN TO US.

5. GUTIERREZ-MELLADO HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO OFFER ON THE SUBJECT BEYOND SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF OUR AIR FORCE COULD PROVIDE THE SPANISH AIR FORCE WITH AN OVERALL PICTURE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS OVER A YEAR'S PERIOD. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO CONSIDER THE TOTAL MAGNITUDE OF OUR NEEDS. (HE HAS SUGGESTED THE SAME FOR NAVY REQUIREMENTS WHICH I HAVE DEALT WITH IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.) HE SAID IT  
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WAS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THE GOS IN LIGHT OF THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN SPAIN TO DEAL WITH THESE REQUESTS AS WE NOW PRESENT THEM WITHOUT HAVING SOME IDEA OF THE TOTAL MAGNITUDE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS OVER A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD. HE MADE CLEAR THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATION WOULD REMAIN THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN DECIDING WHETHER PARTICULAR NEEDS COULD BE APPROVED. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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